

# FACT SHEET



**Shaw Avenue Dump Site  
Charles City, Iowa**

**August 2000**

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

EPA will hold a public meeting Thursday, September 14, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 105 Milwaukee Mall, Charles City, Iowa. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on the proposed plan.

EPA is asking for comments on the proposed plan and the recommendation to take no further action to address ground water at this site. Comments can be made orally or in writing at the public meeting or can be mailed to the address listed below. The 30-day comment period opens August 30, 2000, and runs through September 28, 2000.

Written comments (post-marked no later than September 28, 2000), can be sent to:

Diane Huffman  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of External Programs  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

## **INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing a proposed plan recommending no further action be taken to address ground water at the Shaw Avenue Dump Superfund site. The site is located on the southeastern edge of Charles City, Iowa, near the intersection of Shaw Avenue and Clark Street. Comments will be taken on the proposed plan and EPA's recommendation through September 28, 2000.

After reviewing comments received during the public comment period, EPA will make a decision on the proposal to take no further action. The decision will be published in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will also include a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

## **SITE BACKGROUND**

The Shaw Avenue Dump site covers 24 acres, part of which is on the Cedar River flood plain. The city of Charles City owns the site and currently uses it for disposal of liming sludge from the Charles City Waste Water Treatment Plant. In the past, the city operated a municipal dump at the site. From 1949 to 1953, the dump accepted chemical waste, contaminated with arsenic and other organic compounds, from Salsbury Laboratories, a veterinary pharmaceutical company. Salsbury

Laboratories also discharged liquid wastes to the Charles City Waste Water Treatment Plant. Sludges from the waste water treatment plant were also disposed of at the site from 1949 to 1964. In July 1987, the site was added to the National Priorities List, a list of the nation's highest priority

sites eligible for cleanup under EPA's Superfund program.

A remedial investigation to identify the nature and extent of contamination was initiated at the site in July 1988. Volatile organic compounds and heavy metals, including vinyl chloride, benzene, 1,1,2-trichloroethane and arsenic were found in the soil and ground water. Areas of the dump containing pharmaceutical waste highly concentrated with arsenic were also identified.

In 1992, EPA entered into an agreement with the city of Charles City and Solvay Animal Health, Inc., the successor to Salsbury Laboratories, Inc., to excavate and dispose of chemical waste and contaminated soil. Excavating the chemical waste and contaminated soil removed the primary source of the ground water contamination. In addition, the agreement required regular sampling of the ground water monitoring wells at the site and placed restrictive covenants on the site property that prohibit installation of ground water wells on the property.

### **PROPOSAL FOR THE SITE**

Ecological and human health assessments have been conducted to evaluate the risks the site would pose to human health and the environment if no more cleanup actions were taken. The ecological assessment determined there was no threat to the environment from contaminants at the site. The human health assessment determined that although contaminants remain in the ground water at the site, it is extremely unlikely that anyone would come into contact with the ground water at the site now, or in the future. A number of institutional controls are in place to ensure that no one is exposed to the ground water. They are:

- The 1992 restrictive covenant, required by the 1992 agreement with the city and Solvay that prohibits the installation of wells at the site.
- Placement of the site on the registry of abandoned or uncontrolled disposal sites under the Iowa Environmental Act. This requires that the owner or operator of the site obtain written approval from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) before substantially changing the manner in which the site is used. IDNR has stated that it would not grant approval for such a change in the use of the site.
- The site is in the 100-year flood plain. The Charles City Flood Plains Management Ordinance forbids the construction of residential buildings in the area of a flood plain.

EPA has determined that the site does not present a significant threat to human health or the environment. Therefore, EPA is proposing that no further action be taken to cleanup ground water contamination at the site and requests comments on this proposal. The site will be evaluated every five-years to ensure that human health and the environment remain protected.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

EPA encourages community members to review and comment on the proposed plan for the Shaw Avenue Dump site. A file containing site-related documents, called the Administrative Record File, is available for public review during normal business hours at the Charles City Public Library, 106 Milwaukee Mall, Charles City, Iowa, and at EPA Region 7.

If you have questions or need additional information about this site, please contact:

Diane Huffman, Community Involvement Coordinator  
Office of External Programs, EPA Region 7  
901 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
Telephone: 1-913-551-7003 or Toll-free 1-800-223-0425  
Fax: 1-913-551-7066  
E-mail: [huffman.diane@epa.gov](mailto:huffman.diane@epa.gov)

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